

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05
EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01
COME-00 AGRE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 /121 W
-----001451 261526Z /46

R 261042Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6440
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2964

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, PK, XE
SUBJECT: ROK RESPONSE TO VISIT OF DPRK VICE PRESIDENT

1. ROK CONGEN CHOI HAS GIVEN HIS VERSION OF AUDIENCE HE HAD WITH CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) GEN. ZIA MARCH 21. CHOI OFFERED SUBSTANTIAL ROK ASSISTANCE, CONVEYED INVITATION TO ZIA TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA, AND HE BELIEVES (BUT WE DOUBT) THAT HE MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN MOVING ZIA TOWARD DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF ROK--OVER OBJECTIONS OF MFA.

2. CHOI WAS CALLED BACK FROM HOME LEAVE TEN DAYS AGO BY ZIA, WHO ASKED HIM TO RETURN TO ISLAMABAD SO ZIA COULD HAVE AN INTERVIEW WITH HIM BEFORE ARRIVAL OF DPRK DELEGATION. CHOI ACTUALLY DID NOT SEE ZIA UNTIL MARCH 21, AFTER DPRK GROUP LEFT. CHOI HAD HEARD THAT FOREIGN ADVISOR AGHA SHAHI AND FONSEC SHAHNAWAZ WERE STRONG OPPONENTS OF ANY CHANGE IN BHUTTO POLICIES TOWARD KOREA. HE BELIEVES THEY ARGUED THAT CHINESE REACTION WOULD BE ADVERSE IF PAKISTAN MOVED TO RECOGNIZE ROK. (NOTE: WE BELIEVE ARGUMENT PROBABLY RESTED MOSTLY ON FELT NEED TO AVOID POLICY CHANGES THAT WOULD GIVE PRO-BHUTTO ELEMENTS GROUNDS FOR CRITICISM AND ON
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DESIRE FOR "NON-ALIGNED" CREDENTIALS.

3. CHOI IN TALK WITH ZIA OUTLINED LIST OF POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE PROJECTS TOTALLING US \$250 MILLIONS. ZIA SEEMED PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN OIL FROM RICE BRAN PROJECT, PAPER FROM RICE STRAW PROJECT, AND INEXPENSIVE CEMENT BLOCK PRODUCTION UNITS, ALL OF WHICH ZIA SAW AS DIRECTLY BENEFITTING FARMERS. OTHER OFFERS

INCLUDED SUPPLYING TWO FISHING TRAWLERS. WHILE CHOI DID NOT MAKE RECOGNITION A PRE-CONDITION, HE BELIEVES IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD. ZIA WAS NONCOMMITTAL ABOUT INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT PARK TO VISIT KOREA.

4. CHOI THEN WENT QUITE FAR IN REBUTTING CONTENTION THAT PRC WOULD BE UNHAPPY WITH GOP IF IT RECOGNIZED ROK, ASSERTING THAT PRC POLICY HAD CHANGED RECENTLY, AND THAT EVEN IF PRC DID MAKE SOME NEGATIVE NOISES, THAT WOULD BE IN LINE WITH DESIRES OF COMMUNISTS TO SUPPORT OTHER COMMUNISTS TO WHICH GOP SHOULD NOT PAY ATTENTION. CHOI ALSO MADE OTHER DEROGATORY COMMENTS ABOUT PRC (AND DPRK) POLICIES AND ATTITUDES THAT WE DOUBT WENT DOWN WELL WITH ZIA.

5. CHOI ASKED FOR USG SUPPORT IN TRYING TO INFLUENCE ZIA TOWARD RECOGNITION OF ROK, AND ALSO ASKED FOR INFORMAL AMEMBASSY SUPPORT IN A CAMPAIGN HE SAYS HE WILL MOUNT IN PAK MEDIA AGAINST BHUTTO'S ONE-SIDED KOREAN POLICY. AMB REPLIED THAT IF ASKED BY GOP HE WOULD CERTAINLY GIVE USG VIEWS ON NEED FOR BALANCED RECOGNITIONS BETWEEN KOREAS, BUT THAT USG ASSOCIATION, HOWEVER DISCREET, WITH MEDIA CAMPAIGN IN PAKISTAN WOULD LIKELY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

6. CHOI IS CONVINCED THAT HE HAS MOVED ZIA'S POSITION CONSIDERABLY, AND HAS UNDERMINED MFA OFFICIALS' OPPOSITION. WE ARE UNCONVINCED, AND THINK CHOI MAY HAVE BEEN TOO HEAVY-HANDED. CONFIDENTIAL

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IF TIME COMES WHEN ZIA'S GOVERNMENT ABANDONS POSTURE OF ANOJKCPTERIM# GOVT UNWILLING TO MAKE LONG-RANGE CHANGES IN POLICY, THEN THERE MAY BE GOOD CHANCE FOR BALANCED RECOGNITION OF ROK. UNTIL THAT TIME, AND GIVEN THE GOP'S PREOCCUPATION WITH INTERNAL PROBLEMS, WE THINK A CHANGE UNLIKELY, AND BELIEVE THAT A MEDIA CAMPAIGN IS NOT ONLY RISKY, BUT PROBABLY ILL-TIMED. HUMMEL

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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